REMARKS

Claims 1 through 9 and 11 are now pending in this application. In response to the Office Action dated February 2, 2005, independent claims 1,7 and 9 have been amended, and claim 10 has been canceled, and new claim 11 has been added. Care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter. A request for one month extension of the period for response, and appropriate fee charge authorization, are filed herewith. Favorable reconsideration of the application as now amended is respectfully solicited.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 through 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 6,392,759 (Kuwata). It is well settled that anticipation, under 35 U.S.C. § 102, requires that each element of a claim in issue be found, either expressly described or under principles of inherency, in a single prior art reference. *Kalman v. Kimberly-Clark Corp.*, 713 F.2d 760, 218 USPQ 781 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 9 USPQ2d 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989) *cert. denied*, 110 S.Ct. 154 (1989). The term "anticipation," in the sense of 35 U.S.C. § 102, has acquired an accepted definition meaning "the disclosure in the prior art of a thing substantially identical with the claimed invention." *In re Schaumann*, 572 F.2d 312, 197 USPQ 5 (CCPA 1978).

Independent claims 1, 7 and 9 have been amended to recite at least one feature that is not present in the Kuwata disclosure. Claim 1 now reads as follows:

1. An image processing apparatus, comprising:

edge detecting means for determining the presence/absence of an edge at each pixel of input data and detecting a position of the edge at each edge pixel;

- 6 -

selecting means for selecting a weighting matrix corresponding to the position of the edge of each target pixel determined to have an edge by said edge detecting means;

enhancement range determining means for determining, using said weighting matrix, a range of edge enhancement of each said target pixel determined to have an edge; and

edge enhancing means for executing an edge enhancement process on data of object pixels within the enhancement range determined by said enhancement range determining means.

The recitation of claim 1 is supported in the original disclosure, for example, as shown in the flow diagram of Fig.3. Independent claims 7 and 9, and new claim 11 are similarly amended. All claims require selection of a weighting matrix that corresponds to the position of the edge of each target pixel having an edge, using the weighted matrix to determine a range of edge enhancement of each said target pixel determined to have an edge, and executing an edge enhancement process on data of object pixels within the determined enhancement range.

It is submitted that Kuwata does not disclose use of weighting matrix, corresponding to the position of the edge of each target pixel, to determine a range of edge enhancement of each target pixel. Independent claims 1, 7, 9 and 11, as well as dependent claims 2 through 6 and 8, therefore are distinguishable from Kuwata.
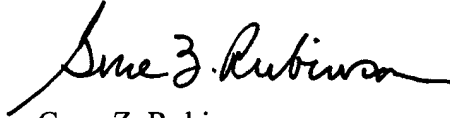
Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees

Application No.: 09/630,572

due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit

Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

Gene Z. Rubinson
Registration No. 33,351

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
Phone: 202.756.8000 GZR/EJW:cac
Facsimile: 202.756.8087
Date: April 28, 2005

**Please recognize our Customer No. 20277
as our correspondence address.**